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HOUSE BILL 2014

By Walley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13 and Title 33, relative to housing services for the mentally ill.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-1-208, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection to be appropriately designated:

( ) (1) The department shall identify those members of the priority population in need of housing assistance. The department shall assess the specific needs for housing services and related support services of the priority population. The department may call on the Tennessee Housing Development Agency and other agencies of state government for assistance in developing the needs assessment. The needs assessment shall be updated annually by the department. The needs assessment shall be presented to the commissioner of mental health and the board of trustees of the department for consideration in planning department services. The preparation of the needs assessment shall only be advisory to the planning activities of the department and shall not be construed as including any identified services in any continuum of services offered by the department.

(2) The needs assessment reported under this section shall also be annually transmitted to the senate general welfare, health and human resources committee and to the house health and human resources committee of the general assembly.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 13, Chapter 23, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

Section \_\_\_\_\_. In assisting the department of mental health and mental retardation in developing the needs assessment required by SECTION 1, the housing development agency shall provide necessary general assistance and shall estimate the degree to which mentally ill persons could benefit under the Handicapped Housing Authorization Act of 1977 for loans benefiting housing services to the elderly and the developmentally or physically disabled.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.